

21

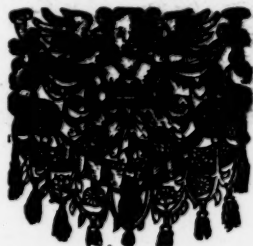
[7.]

A  
COMMISSION  
WITH INSTRUCTI-  
ONS AND DIRECTIONS,  
granted by his Maiestie to the Master  
and Counsaile of the Court of Wards  
and Liueries,

*For compounding for Wards, Ideots,  
and Lunaticks,*

*And giuen vnder His Highnesse great  
Seale of England*

*The eleuenth day of December 1618.*

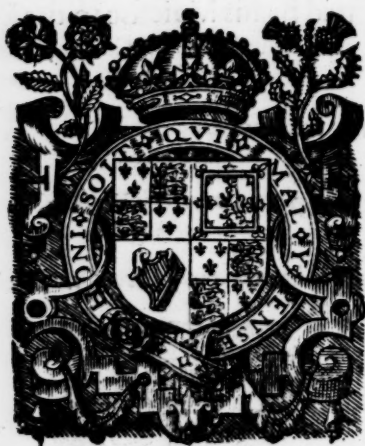


---

L O N D O N,  
Printed by BONHAM NORTON  
and IOHN BILL, Printers to the  
*Kings most Excellent Maiestie.*  
M.DC.XVIIII.

*Bridgewater*

COMPTON





By the King.

**I** A M E S , by the  
 grace of GOD King  
 of England , Scot-  
 land , France and  
 Ireland , Defender  
 of the Faith, &c.

To Our right tru-  
 stie, and right welbeloued Councillour,  
 WILLIAM Lord Knollys, Viscount Wal-  
 lingford, Master of Our Court of Wards  
 and Liueries, And to Our trustie and well-  
 beloued the Councell of the same Court,  
 And to the Master and Councell of the  
 said Court for the time being, Greeting.

W H E R E A S Wee haue heretofore publi-  
 shed seuerall Commissions, with Instru-  
 ctions and Directions to you Our Master

A 3

and

and Councell of Our Court of Wards and Liueries, for compounding for Wards, Ideots and Lunatiques, now that time and experience haue produced the knowledge of sundry defects, that otherwise could not easily haue been foreseene, which are to bee supplied by explanation and addition to the same Our Instructions, according to Our gracious purpose for the good of Our louing Subiects, & Our especiall care for the true answering of Our Reuenues. And forsomuch as it doth appere by common experience, in the course which hath beene helde since the first erection of Our Court of Wards and Liueries, That partly by the slackenesse of the Friends of the Wards, vpon the decease of the Parents or Ancestours, who haue forborne to offer timely Composition, sometimes with opinion, that no Tytle could be found for Vs, and somtimes with purpose to suppress the same, & partly by the suite of other men, the Custodie of the bodies and lands of Our Wards, haue been committed to such persons, some for one respect



respect, some for another, as (notwithstanding the care and prouidence of you the Master and Councell of Our Court, to bind them in great Bonds and Couenants for the well educating of the Children, and preseruation of their Inheritance) haue been carelesse of their education, married some in meane places, committed wastes and spoyles vpon their Lands, and in the end haue exacted greater summes of money for the marriages of such Wards, then they ought to haue done in reason and equity; notwithstanding any their disbursements whatsoeuer for paising or procuring the same.

And whereas also Wee haue bene informed by you the Master of the saide Court, that by reason of the great difficulties that haue bene found by the Court, vpon sight of Offices, and Surueyes only, to set downe Compositions for Wardships and Leases of Wards Lands, with such equalitie and moderation betweene Vs, and Our Subjects, as were iust and reasonable; and that through want of due information in  
that

that behalfe, much of the profit that might haue bene raised for Vs, hath bene diuer-  
ted to diuers Sutors and Committees, who  
by oblcuring the trueth of the Wards  
estate, and by misinforming of the Court  
therein, haue reaped greater profite, then  
was intended, if you could by ordinary  
meanes, haue come by the knowledge of  
their values; so as, both Wee haue receiued  
lesse then otherwise We should haue done,  
and the Wards found little ease in many  
cases.

Wherefore, for the preuenting of these  
and the like inconueniences, and to the  
end that Our louing Subiects may stand  
assured, that Wee desire nothing more,  
then that their Children and their Lands;  
that shall fall vnto Vs by reason of Ward-  
ships, might after their decease, bee com-  
mitted to their neereft and trustiest  
friends, or to such as they, by Wil, or other-  
wise, commit the charge vnto, vpon such  
valuable considerations, as are iust and  
reasonable: And to the intent that the Pa-  
rents and Ancestours may depart in grea-  
ter

*Wardes committed*

ter peace, in hope of this Our gracious fauour; and their friendes may see their Children brought vp in pietie and learning, and may take such care as is fit, for the preseruacion of their inheritance, if they wil seeke the same in time, and by such meanes as are fitte and conuenient; Wee haue thought good hereby to require you, the Master and Councell of the said Court for the time beeing, that in disposing and committing of the custodie of the Bodies and Lands of such Our Wards, whose Ancestours are already deceased, or shall die from and after the date of these presents, and of such Ideots and Lunatiques, and their Estates, as shall fall vnto Vs from hencefoorth, you shal strictly and carefully obserue these Our Directions following.

**F**IRST, that no Direction for the finding of any Office, bee giuen for Wardship of the Body and Lands of any Ward, vntill the ende of one moneth next after the death of the Ancestor of the Ward, but to the neereft and trustiest

B

friends

*All Directions for  
grubbing of offices  
untill a moneth  
after the death of  
the Ancestor.  
But such neereft  
& trustiest friends*

friends of the Ward, or other persons nominated by the Ancestor in the Wards behalfe, who may in the meane time become Suitors for the same, among whom, choice may be made of the best and fittest: and if none of the Wards friends make petition by the end of the moneth, then it shall be lawfull for any other to petition, and to finde the Office for the said Wardship.

*No composition  
in promise  
until office found*

A L S O, That no composition, agreement or promise of any Wardship, or Lease of Lands bee made, vntill the Office bee found, and then such of the Friends to haue preferment, as tendered their Petitions within the moneth, they yeelding a reasonable Composition; and in default of them, such others as were or shall be Suitors, yeelding also a reasonable Composition.

*Wardes taken  
since Goode  
Estate.*

A L S O, You shall doe your best in-  
deuours to informe your selues as perti-  
cularly as you may, by Commission, Sur-  
uey or otherwise, of the truth of the Wards  
Estates, aswell of his Inheritance, as of his  
Goods and Chattels, and of the Estate of  
the

the deceased Ancestor, and of all other due circumstances considerable, to the ende the Compositions may bee such as may stand both with Our reasonable profit, and with the abilitie of the heires estate.

THAT all Petitions for Wardships, Ideots and Lunatiques, shalbe first deliuered to the Clerke of the Court, by the Suitor himselfe, and the Clerke of the Court is hereby directed to make entry of the same Petitions without any Fee, the very day of the deliury of the same, and returne them to the Suitor, who shall afterward present the same Petition openly at the Councell Table of the Court of Wards, there to be ordered by the Officers at their next sitting.

THAT euery such Petition doe expresse the seuerall Counties, wherein the Ancestors died seised of Lands.

THAT all Petitioners that haue warrant to finde an Office, and appointed to attend at a certaine day, if after they finde no Office, nor doe not attend before the Officers for their Composition, at such

*Petitions for  
Wardships  
etc.*

*Petitioners  
not finding  
office. not  
attending*

time as was appointed, then they shall loose the benefit of their Petition, and their bond shalbe put in Proceffe, sauing they shall be admitted to make their reasonable excuse in any of the foresaid Cases.

*Feodary.* THAT euery Feodary doe appoint some certaine person and place in London, whither the Court may send directions to bee conueyed to the Feodaries continually for Our seruice.

*certificat* THAT euery Feodary at the end of euery Terme, attend the Clerke of the Court, and take notice and direction out of the Petitions entred with the saide Clerke, in what Counties Our Tenaunts died seized of any Lands, and of the Lands of Idiots, and that the Feodaries accordingly send vp their Certificate of the best improved valew of all the same Lands, lying in their said seuerall Counties, by the first sitting of the Officers the next Terme following.

*view* THAT the Feodary doe make his Certificate by view or other speciall information of the best improoued valew, with his reasons

reasons thereof priuately without giuing  
knowledge to the Suitor, or any for him of  
any valew intended by him to be certified,  
and without taking any Fee or Reward  
from the Suitor, or any for him for valew-  
ing the Lands or personall estate.

*with out giuing  
knowledge*

*with out fee.*

T H A T the Feodaries do name in their  
Certificats, the Lands in order one after an-  
other, as they lye in order in the Office, and  
to set downe in the one Margent of their  
Certificats, the valew in the office, and in  
the other Margent the improoued valew  
certified to the Officers, and the same va-  
luations to be distributed according to the  
estates found in the Office.

*form of Certif-  
icate*

*Valewe*

T H A T the Feodarie doe certifie all  
Coppicholds, Leases, valew of woods, or  
other personall estate that commeth to the  
Ward, or any immediate possibilitie of any  
estate of Lands, whereby his marriage may  
be improoued.

*Copy holdes  
Leases  
woods. a  
Journall etc.*

T H A T the Feodary shall not mention  
in his Certificate, any thing omitted out of  
the office against the King to abate the  
Composition, but shall leaue the same to

*not mention  
any thing om-  
ted out of office*

be alledged by the Suitor to be allowed (if  
cause be) vpon prooffe to be made thereof  
by them at the Composition.

THAT the Escheator, and Feodary,  
and Commissioners shall provide, that Of-  
fices bee not confusedly found, by ioyning  
diuers Mannors and Lands in one grosse  
value together.

THAT the Certificates of the Feoda-  
rie bee deliuered by the first sitting of the  
Officers in euery Terme, to the Clerke of  
the Court, close sealed vp, and so to re-  
maine with the Clerke vnopened, vntill  
the time of Composition: And if it be de-  
liuered by the hands of a stranger, then he  
to deliuer it vpon oath, according to the  
vsuall course of the Court in like cases, and  
to be brought by the Clerke vnopened, at  
the Officers sitting there to be opened, and  
use to bee made of the same.

THAT the Feodaries doe find Offices  
at the best value that may appeare vpon  
search of ancient Offices, or other Records;  
if there be no Record, then to be found by  
the Iurie, according to Euidence to bee  
giuen.

THAT

*Escheator &  
Feodary & Com-  
missioners to  
provide for Offices  
of Feodaries*

*Delivery of  
Certificates  
sealed.*

*By the Feodary  
& a stranger.*

*Value of Offices  
found in  
Value,*



THAT no Office be found within the yeere after the death of the Ancestor against Vs or a meane Tenure of Vs (not being Knights seruice) for any Ward within age, vntill the Feodary or Escheator do first acquaint the Court for further directions therein, which the Feodary is inioyned to doe with all conuenient expedition.

*No office to be  
founde againe  
the King within  
a yeare after  
the death. &c.*

THAT euery Feodary and Escheter, before the third Returne of euery Terme, shall certifie into the Court, a note of all Offices found in the vacation next before, and whether a Tenure be found for Vs in Capite or by Knights seruice, & the names of the Ancestor and Heire, and his age.

*Feodary & Es-  
cheator certifi-  
cate of offices  
found in the  
Vacations*

THAT the Clerks of the Pettie Bagge, doe file and transcribe all Offices that bee brought to them, and not to reiect or suppress the same, and the like course to be vsed in the Exchequer with Offices that be returned into the Exchequer; and that all due Fees bee foorthwith discharged and payd vnto the Clerkes and Officers of the sayd Courts: And if any person shall denie or neglect to pay any such due Fees, then vpon

upon the petition of the sayd Clerke to the Court of Wards, order shall bee taken for their satisfaction.

**T H A T** no Escheton shall inforce any man to shew his Euidence vnto himselfe, neither shall hee haue any power to discharge the Subiects from finding their Offices.

**T H A T** all Sales and Compositions for Wardships of the Bodies, and Leases of Lands, (except the cases of Concealments hereafter mentioned) and all Commitments of Ideots, and custodie of their Estates be made by the Master and Councell of the same Court, openly in the Councell Chamber of the Court of Wards, and by such persons as are authorised by Statute in that behalfe. Neuerthelesse, the Surueyor of the Liueries, the Attourney of the Wards, Receiuer and Auditors, or any foure of them, without the Master, may treat with any to bring the sayd Wardships, and the Leases, and the Commitments of Ideots to a price, openly in the Councell Chamber of the Court of Wards,  
and

and acquaint the Master therewith; in whose power it shall bee to allow of the same, according to the said Statute.

**T H A T** Leases of Wards Lands (except the cases of Concealments hereafter mentioned) be made with a small or little Fine, and for the bestimproued yerely Rent that shall be offered, consideration being had of all due cautions, as aforesayd.

**T H A T** sellable Woods, and Fines of Copiholds of inheritance bee also reasonably valued and demised with the Lands, for the best yeerely Rent, as aforesaid, with prouision for sellable Woods, that the Lessees sell them by fit portions.

**T H A T** Fines of Copiholds for liues bee made and raised to Our vse, when, and as often as the Court shall thinke good, by certaine particular Commissioners, to bee appointed by the Master and Councell of Our sayd Court; which Commissioners shall bee charged to make the best of such Copiholds to bee granted, and truely to answer vnto Vs into Our Receipt of Our sayd Court, all such summes, without fraud

C

or

or couin, as by them shal haue bin receiued, due consideration being had of their pains and expences, or else the same to bee compounded for at the Councell chamber of the Court of Wards, as in other cases of compositions.

**T H A T** the rate and summe agreed vpon by the Commissioners for the composition of any Ward or Lease, do stand, and bee not abated in the composition, neither in the Fine nor Rent.

**T H A T** no Wardships of the Body or Land (except the cases of concealements hereafter mentioned) shalbe giuen or granted to any person, or at his suit, by way of reward or benefit, but the best price & value that shalbe offered, shalbe taken to Our vse; So alwayes as the neereft and trustiest Friends, or the persons nominated by the Ancestor (they seeking the same in time conuenient, as afore sayd, and making fit offer for it) bee preferred, and consideration had of the Wardes Estate, and of all due circumstances considerable in such Cases.

**T H A T**

THAT no Fine for any concealed Wardship, or the Fine of the Lease of any Land be assessed, but openly at the Councell Chamber of the Court of Wards, by the Master and the Councell at their seuerall sittings.

THAT no mitigation of any meane rates, valewes and forfeiture of marriage, Fines, debts or charges be discharged or abated, but by the Master and Councell openly at their seuerall sittings.

THAT not only euery Committee and Lessee, but euery Assignee of euery Committee or Lessee (except the Cases of Concealments hereafter mentioned) shall take the Oath, viz. &c. And for that purpose euery Committee, and Lessee, & Assignee, shall be sworne whether he taketh it to his owne vse, or to the vse of any other, to the end they may both take the Oath.

AND furthermore, Wee doe hereby require and authorise you, that you giue order, that euery person that shall prosecute such Composition for the custodie of a Ward, Ideot, or Lunatique, or Lease of their

Land, or other estate (except the Cases of Concealments hereafter mentioned) shall before any graunt of the body, or lease of the Lands, bee deliuered vnto him vnder the Seale of Our said Court, take his corporall Oath in open Court, or by Commission (if the cause shall so require) before three Commissioners at the least, whereof one to be a Iustice of the Peace, to be certified and returned into the Court, before the deliue-ry of such graunt or Lease, in maner and forme following, viz.

*J. A. B. doe sweare, That nei-  
ther I, nor any other to my knowledge,  
haue or hath giuen, or promised, procu-  
red or cōsented to giue or to be giuen a-  
ny gift or reward, directly or indirect-  
ly, vnto any Officer or Officers of the  
Court of Wards and Liueries, or to a-  
ny other person or persons whatsoeuer,  
for procuring any preferment to com-  
pound before an other, or for mitiga-  
tion*

tion in the price or payment in any Composition or Contract made, or to be made for the Wardship of the body of I. S. his Maiesties Ward, and the Lease of any the saide Wards Lands, or for the signing or dispatc-  
 ing of any Grants of them, or any of them, or for the mitigatiō of the yerely valew of any of the Lands of the said Ward (ordinary Fees onely excepted,) And that I will not giue, nor any with my consent shall giue, or consent to be giuen any gift or reward, directly or indirectly for the causes aforesaid, or any of them; And that I doe take the saide Wardship to the vse of the said Ward, and the saide Lease to the vse of A. B. and not in trust for or to the vse of any other person or persons whatsoener; So helpe mee God.

C 3

THAT

THAT especiall choice be made of the Commissioners that receiue the Oath in the Countrey, so that the Oath may bee truly and fully taken by the Committees, Lessees and Assignees, and the parties committing trust to any other.

THAT the Oath be taken by those that are Committees or Lessees vpon neglect *in hec verba*.

*J. A. B. doe sweare, that neither I, nor any other to my knowledge, or as I beleue or haue heard, haue or hath taken any course, or vsed any practise or combination directly or indirectly, by my selfe or by an other, with any person or persons whatsoever, to stay or hinder the prosecution of, and for the Composition for the Wardship of the body of B. C. or the Lease of any of the said Wards lands, with any purpose or intent whatsoever,*  
*that*



*that the said Wardship and Lease, or either of them, by such neglect and default of prosecution, might come to mee, or to any other to my use, or by my meanes or procurement, or to my knowledge; So helpe me God.*

T H A T no Recusant bee admitted to compound, or bee Assignee of any Ward of Bodie or Lands, or of Ideots.

T H A T all tenders and continuances of Liueries, be onely made to the Suruey-our of the Liueries, who is commanded to take an exact care of Our iust profits therein, Wee intending an account of him for that seruice.

T H A T the Feodaries shall make Surueys vpon Liueries, in cases of ful age, aswel as in cases within age; and both according to the reasonable value, hauing respect to the improued value.

B Y T touching Lunatiques, let no composition bee taken for the committing of them or their Estates; but let such care be  
had

had therein, as they may bee freely committed to their best and neereſt friends, that can receiue no benefit by their death, and the Committees bound to anſwere, not onely the values found by Office, but the very iuſt value of their Eſtates vpon accompts, for the benefit of ſuch Lunatique, (if hee recouer) or of his next Heire, Executors or Adminiſtrators, due regard being had to the paines and charges of ſuch Committees, in keeping, maintaining, governing, and curing of the ſaid diſtracted perſons.

**T H A T** all the reuenues of the Wards Lands bee immediatly payd into the Receipt of the Wards, vnto the Receiuer of the ſame Court, by the Farmors and Leſſees themſelues, and ſhal not bee paid vnto the hands of any other (excepting ſuch Rents that bee vnder the value of tenne pounds a yeere, which are appointed to be paid vnto the Feodaries.

**T H A T** Petitions or demaunds for any allowance from vs exhibited by the Feodaries, or any other, for any ſeruiſe or diſburſements,

bursements shall not be granted or allowed vntill the same be both particularly examined and allowed by the Master and Councell openly at their seuerall sittings.

That the Receiuers account bee taken and declared euery yeere, according to the Statute of 32. *Henr. Octau*, before the Master of the Wards, Attourney, & one or both of the Auditors; and after the determination of the sayd accompt, the Maister, Attourney, and the Auditor or Auditors, shall all of them set their hands to the Receiuers booke of Accompts, which is and shall be for the Receiuers charge and discharge, as the case shall require.

THAT the Auditors doe ingrosse into Parchment all the said Receiuers accounts, according to the expresse time and direction of the Statute of 32. *Henrici Octau*, and doe yeerely certifie and returne the same so ingrossed, with all the Warrants, Acquittances and Debenters into the Tresaurie of the Court of Wards, there to remaine as the Records of the Court, according to the Statute, and the ancient course of the Court.

D

THAT

**T H A T** all the accompts of the Feodaries be likewise declared and certified eue-  
ry *Hillary Terme*, to the Master and Coun-  
cell of the Wards, openly at the sittings of  
the Officers in the Councell Chamber,  
that the Court may knowe how the re-  
maines vpon their accompts bee satisfied  
and paide, and their accompts to be accor-  
dingly returned into the Court, there to  
remaine.

**A N D** because Our purpose in this  
course, which now is taken, is to raise with  
as little grieuance as may be to Our louing  
Subiects, that reasonable benefit which  
ought to come vnto Vs, by the Marriages  
of Our Wards, and by their Leases of their  
Lands, whereof a great part hath been di-  
uerterd by Grants to Committees, and o-  
therwise: Wee doe hereby declare, that it is  
not Our meaning to change the course  
that hath been formerly held and vsed in  
finding Offices; nor to presse the raising  
or improouing of any values or Rates in  
any Inquisitions, other then as aforesaid:  
Neither will Wee haue the Rents which  
shall

shall bee referued vpon such Leases, or any such Certificats, Informations or Instructions, as shall by any meanes be giuen or appeare of the valewes of such Wards Lands or estates, to be transcribed, or transmitted to any other Court, Office, place or person; or admitted or vsed as President, euidence or inducement, to charge Our Subiects in any other payments now, or hereafter answerable vnto Vs, Our Heires or Successors, or for any other cause.

NEVERTHELES, Wee are well pleased and contented, that if any Wardship, Lease of Land, Meane rates before or after full age, now be, or hereafter shall be concealed from Vs, and no Suite shall be made within three yeeres next after Our Tenants death, for such Wardship or Lease; that in such case the Master and Councill of the Court of Wards, openly in the Councel-chamber, as aforesaid, may admit any fit person whatsoeuer, that shall make offer to discouer Our right so concealed, or sought to be concealed and suppressed, vpon good matter or prooffe, shewed for Vs and ap-

proued by the Court, to prosecute the finding of an Office; and to passe the saide Wardship, lease or Meane rates, without restraining or binding the said Court, or the partie prosecuting, according to the Directions aboue mentioned, but that the Master and Councel of the said Court, may openly in the councel-Chamber, as aforesaid, according to the parties trauaile, expenses, aduenture and seruice done vnto Vs, reward him, by granting such Wardship, Lease, or Meane rates, in such sort as others may be encouraged to employ themselves in the like Service; And all deuices and practises to deceiue and defraud Vs of Our due and iust Right, be better preuented; Any thing in these our Instructions or Directions to the contrary notwithstanding.

PROVIDED alwayes, and Wee doe hereby declare it to be Our will and pleasure, that where it shall appeare to you, that neither Wee nor Our Progenitors, haue enioyed any benefit by Wardship, Liurey, Primer seisen, Reliefe, Respect of Homage, Fines or Meane Rates of any Lands within

within the space of threescore yeeres last past, where such benefite ought to haue come to the Crowne, if such Tenure had bene acknowledged: In such cases We are pleased to giue power and authoritie to you Our Master and Councell of Our Court, openly in the counsel-Chamber, as aforesaid, to remit and release all such Benefit and profit, as haue or ought to haue accrued vnto Vs, or to Our Progenitors, by reason of any such Tenure, allowing to such persons as haue prosecuted in Our behalfe, such part thereof as shall seeme good in your discretion, not exceeding a thirde part of the whole, as the same shalbe found by inquisition; Sauing to Vs, Our Heires and Successours, the right and inheritance of Our Tenures; And sauing Our Prerogative, and the benefit and profit of such Tenures of Vs, or Our Progenitors, as doe expressely appeare by matter of Record; And also such as haue bene created, or otherwise come vnto Vs within the same time of threescore yeeres.

AND now that We haue so sufficiently directed you, as Wee make little doubt but you will bee carefull of Our profit in the execution of your places; So neuerthelesse, Wee let you know hereby, that seeing Our owne iudgement tells Vs, that there may fall into your considerations many circumstances, which must guide you in assessing the Fines for the marriages of Our Wards, and Renting of their Lands; some arising either out of the broken estate of the deceased, want of prouision for his Wife, his great charge of children vnprovided for, infirmitie or tenderneesse of the Heire, vncertainty of the Title, or greatneesse of incumbrance vpon the Land, so as some Heire, that may in respect of his degree, blood, or liuing, in opinion of the world be iudged to deserue a greater Rent, or Fine, then some other persons more obscure may, yet in regard of the causes aboue mentioned, or some other of like sort, lesse fit to haue any greater charge laid vpon him : Wee doe therefore, notwithstanding



standing any thing contained in these Our Instructions, giue you full libertie, that as these, or any other the like considerations, shall offer themselves vnto you, you may vse that good discretion and conscience which is fit, openly in the Councell chamber, as aforesaid, in mittigating or abating the Fines or Rents vpon the said Grants or Leases, to the reliefe of such necessities; So alwayes as care be taken, that by any such pretenses, that profit which should accrue vnto Vs, be not diuerted to any others that shall seeke to drawe to themselves a priuate benefit out of this Our gracious care and consideration. And Our will and pleasure is, and Wee doe hereby direct and authorise you the Master and Councell of the sayd Court, and the Master and Councell of the same for the time beeing, that with the aduice of Our Iudges, Assistants of Our sayd Court, you diligently examine, search out, and reforme all fraudulent deuices and practises, deuised or to be deuised and put in yre, to deceiue and defeat

feate Vs of Our Wardships , or Leases of Our Wards Lands, or of any due or iust benefit belonging vnto Vs , by reason of Our Tenures.

AND lastly , that the Master of the Wardes, Surueyour , Attourney , Receiuer, Auditors, Clerke of the Court , and his Deputie, the Clerke of the Liueries and his Deputie, and all the Feodaries, and the Masters Secretarie, and all other Officers, and persons imployed in his Maiesties Reuenue of the Wards, shall take an expresse oath, openly in the Councell chamber of the Court of Wardes, in manner and forme following.

*I, A.B. doe sweare , that neither I, nor any other person for me by my appointment , knowledge or consent, shall take or receiue of any person, any gift or reward directly or indirectly , for any Composition or preferment,*


*ferment, or causing any person or persons to be preferred to compound before another, or to haue any mittigation in the price, or payment in any Composition or contract, at any time hereafter to bee made for the Wardship of the bodie, or Lease of the Lands of any his Maiesties Wards, or for the custody of any his Maiesties Ideots, or Lunatikes, or their Lands, Goods or Chattels, or for the signing or dispatcing of any Warrant for any Grant of them or any of them, excepting ordinary Fees : So helpe mee God. In witnesse whereof Wee haue caused these Our Letters to bee made Patents.*

Witnesse Our selfe at West-  
**E** minster

minster the eleuenth day of December, in the sixteenth yeere of Our Reigne of England, France and Ireland, and of Scotland the two and fiftieth.

*Per ipsum Regem.*



 Imprinted at LONDON by  
BONHAM NORTON and IOHN  
BILL, Printers to the Kings  
most Excellent Maiestie.

ANNO 1618.